



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Assateague Island
National Seashore

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Assateague Island National Seashore Backcountry Camping Regulations

- Pets are prohibited.
- Campers must have a backcountry permit attached to their pack at all times in the backcountry.
- Campers must have appropriate equipment for backcountry conditions. Raingear and insect repellent are highly recommended.
- Transportation of campers and/or equipment by vehicle (including those with an Over Sand Vehicle permit) or motorized boat is prohibited.
- Campers are required to camp at the site/s listed on permit. Once permit is issued, the itinerary may not change. No exceptions.
- Oceanside campsites - camp within the designated and posted boundary. Camping is not allowed on the beach or dunes.
- Bayside campsites - camp within 50 feet of the fire rings.
- In Maryland, all vehicles must be parked at the North Beach Ranger Station (for hikers), Old Ferry Landing Parking Area or Bayside Picnic Area (for paddlers).
- In Virginia, ask the Toms Cove Visitor Center staff for parking information.
- All vehicles must display a parking tag obtained when backcountry permit is issued.
- Fires are allowed only in designated fire rings at the bayside sites. At the oceanside sites, fires are allowed on the beach below the high tide line.
- Only dead wood on the ground may be collected for firewood. Driftwood is scarce; do not count on its availability. Do not burn trash.
- Fires should not be left unattended and must be extinguished with water. Do not cover them with sand.
- Protect wildlife by securing your food and keeping a clean campsite.
- Do not pet, feed, or approach the wildlife, including horses. Be sure to maintain a safe distance.
- Pack out all trash. Do not throw trash into toilets, it damages pumping equipment. Trash bags are available upon request.
- Do not enter or approach any buildings or closed areas.
- Hunting camps are not permitted.

Backcountry Safety is Your Responsibility

Travel in the backcountry has inherent risks. Rescue is not a certainty. Backcountry campers assume complete responsibility for their own safety. Your safety depends on your own good judgment, adequate preparation and constant attention. Proper equipment and the knowledge to use it are essential for a safe trip. Backcountry users should be in good physical condition and able to survive on their own.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.